



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Founded in 1931

VOL. 65

March 2013

NO. 7

Communications for Non-Hams

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL
Vice President, RaRa

When I was young I was introduced to two-way radio communication through 11 meter AM. While the notion of communicating with friends through an invisible link that extended through the atmosphere was astounding and magical, it was plagued with congested channels, skip, and poor operators. Nonetheless, it was attractive because a license was not required. Nowadays there are several alternatives that address the first two of these maladies. Alas, the third is an inescapable consequence of human nature that can often be observed on 20 meter USB.

This month at the RARA meeting, scheduled for Friday March 1st at 7:00pm, Jim Sutton, N2OPS and the driving force behind the KC2RHY Youth Amateur Radio Club in Mt. Morris, will tell us about two-way radio solutions for friends and family members who are not hams. He will also tell us about the bands that are available for short range unlicensed business communications. Jim will guide us through a look at the various low power radio services, the absurd ranges claimed in advertisements and he will provide helpful tips we can use when we are shopping for radios and for getting the most out of them once we own them.

Personally, I am anxious to learn about the various bands available for FM communications in the alphabet soup of unlicensed services, such as FRS, GMRS, LPRS, MURS and PRS. WTH?* If you are interested, these services are explained very clearly here <http://www.captainswoop.com/radio/uhf.html>.

Please join us for this enlightening look at unlicensed FM radio services. The meeting will take place in the usual venue, the Henrietta Fire Company #1 at 3129 East Henrietta Road (aka Route 15A). I'll look forward to seeing you there.

*WTH = what the heck

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RARA Meeting March 1st, 7PM

Henrietta Fire Co. #1
3129 East Henrietta Rd. (15A)



The Prez Sez

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC
President, RaRa

There have been a good deal of rumors circulating around the RaRa community about Hamfest 2013, ranging from "I heard that there is not going to be a hamfest this year," to the "hamfest is tied up in RaRa club politics," etc. So it is time to set the record straight. Let me quickly dispel the rumor that there are politics or infighting involved. These are **totally** unsubstantiated and inaccurate rumors, so let me put an end to them here and now! Then there is the rumor that there is not going to be a hamfest this year. Options were placed in front of the Board ranging from not having a hamfest this year to a full blown hamfest as last year. There was some very good, frank, and realistic discussions had about this.



Several of last year's hamfest committee members have decided to step down this year for a much needed rest. They have been on the committee for several years, and have taken our hamfest back to very high levels. I cannot begin to tell you the amount of gratitude that I have for these individuals. They were volunteers who spent countless hours putting these high quality hamfests together. Unless one has spent time on the hamfest committee, one has no idea of how much work actually goes into making these events highly successful. Let's offer kudos and words of sincere thanks to each of these folks for a job extremely well done. They have set a very high bar!

So, here's the announcement that you have been waiting for... **The RaRa Hamfest 2013 will be on Saturday, June 15th, at RIT!** Now you can mark your calendars and make plans to join us. I have been hesitant to release this information because details were not firmed up and I didn't want to put out a date and venue until they were gelled. I could only imagine what hardships might have been had if I released a date and then had to retract it. Stay tuned for more information that will be forthcoming giving more of the specifics about RaRa Hamfest 2013.

Now for some hard facts: *Volunteers are needed to make any hamfest successful.* We will be soliciting volunteers to perform a variety of tasks on the day of the hamfest. Many bodies are needed to assist in giving campus directions, parking, ticket selling, etc. I can't put it any other way... We **NEED** you in order to pull this event off. Please donate a few hours of your time in assisting your club. You will still have plenty of time to enjoy the hamfest. You have been there in the past, and I am looking forward to working with you this year.

73!



WE WANT YOU!

Calendar of Events

- Mar 1** **RaRa General Meeting**
7:00 PM - Henrietta FD #1
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Mar 6** **RaRa Board of Directors**
5:30 PM, RIT Engineering
Hall, Room 2110
- Mar 16** **RaRa VE Testing** sessions
10:00 AM, RIT Gleason
Hall, Room 3139





Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
Editor@RochesterHam.org

Welcome to the March issue of the *RARA Rag*! We have another full lineup of articles for you this month, including some specials thrown in for good measure. We have what might be a first for the *RARA Rag*: a **Non-Silent Key Notice**! This notice is for Mr. Duey Carr, W2QGL. The rumors of his demise are not merely exaggerated, they're downright wrong! I appreciate Mike Gioka, WB2SQS, passing this information along to me. A previous *RARA Rag* reported Mr. Carr as a silent key when in fact he had simply moved away from the area. He now lives in Belmont, MA, and is very much alive. Fortunately, Mr. Carr seemed to take it all in good humor, and in fact noticed the error himself when Googling his name. At any rate, apologies are in order from the editor's desk, and I'm glad to hear he's still with us!

Jim Sutton, our scanning reporter, penned a special article this month on the closing of a long-time store in Leicester, NY called Christiano Hardware. My first recollection of the store was when I was working in my father's boiler repair business right out of high school in the early 1980s. We'd been invited to a trade show and dinner at the old Marriott Hotel in Henrietta, and I never pass up on a good meal! In looking over the list of attendees, I noticed Christiano's among the companies represented. I wondered what a hardware store could possibly offer at an industrial trade show. I would soon find out that this was no ordinary hardware store. They had various divisions that could handle virtually any mechanical/technical need in the area. This included scanner radios and communications equipment in later years. Jim will give us a personal insight into the store while he worked at the scanner desk there. Congratulations to Christiano's on a very long run serving the residents of their area from A to Z. The big box stores will never fill the void they leave.

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV, had an opportunity to promote the hobby of ham radio in a professional video done by Nazareth College, where he is a professor. The video was posted online at the school's website (www.naz.edu), but may not be accessible by the time we distribute this issue, so Bill also provided a YouTube address where it can be seen: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4CdvOIX9cY>. I highly recommend checking it out. Bill also submitted a photo of his antennas right after one of the recent snowfalls. My first thought was: Better snow than ice!

Lou Kohnen, K2ANC, shared a link that should be of interest to all CW ops. It features a very talented drummer providing an upbeat accompaniment to each letter of the alphabet. Check it out at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XHwygN9CKM&feature=youtu.be>

Finally, I want to call your attention to the **Drumlins Hamfest to be held April 13th at a brand new location: The Palmyra VFW** on Rt. 31, between Palmyra and Newark. You'll find more complete details later in this issue.

73, & best DX!



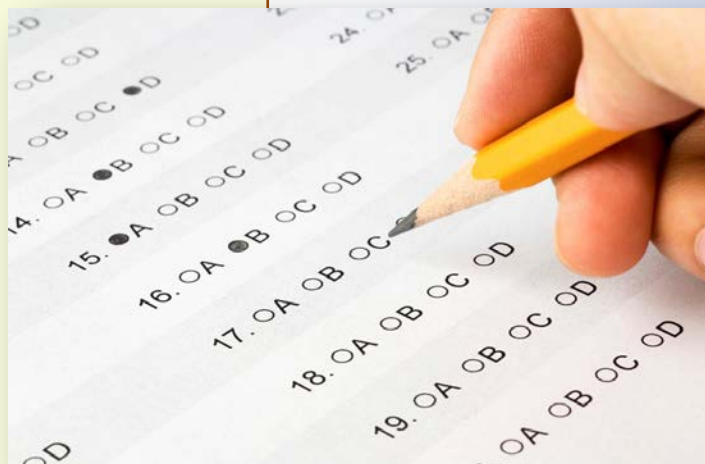
*The snowy scene at AA2YV's
QTH on Saturday, February 9th*

VE News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH
VE Coordinator

We had five successful candidates in January; three Technician and two General. One of these candidates, Kevin, KD2DKC, passed both the Technician and General exams in one sitting. Our next test session will be March 16th at RIT.

Joseph	Clark	KD2DJZ	T
Veronica	Lenhart	KD2DKA	T
Mitchell	Palermo	KD2DKB	T
John	Herkimer	WB2LNY	G
Kevin	Schoenfeld	KD2DKC	G



Licensing Classes

By Sue Waterstraat KC2SUE
RARA Education Coordinator

Time is running out to sign up for the upcoming ham classes starting on Tuesday, March 5th. Get your Ham license or upgrade to the next license class! RARA is sponsoring training at all three levels: Technician, General and Extra beginning on March 5th. (Please note: the original start date of February 5th had to be changed due to scheduling conflicts.) The 10-week sessions will be held Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the James E. Gleason Building #9 at RIT.

There is still room, but contact Sue Waterstraat at suewater@rochester.rr.com soon if you would like to register. If an unlicensed RARA member takes our licensing course and passes the Technician class exam, he or she is eligible to purchase a dual band hand-held radio from RARA for \$25.00. Class space is limited and reservations are highly recommended. Licensing courses are FREE to current members and only \$15.00 for non-members. Not a current RARA member? Membership is only \$15.00 and free for students! Click the following link for details: <http://www.rochesterham.org/Membership.htm>.

Silent Key

Linda MacDougal-Spross,
KA2WNA
January 18, 2013

Ham Tech: Ham Radio on You Tube

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

In December I wrote about the various ham radio related podcasts that are available. Randy Hall, K7AGE, sent me an email about the active community that posts many ham radio-related videos. Randy has his own video channel on You Tube. Randy's channel has over 7,000 subscribers and over 2.3 million views.

If you were active in ham radio in the late 60's and early 70's this next video is worth watching. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sK5pOcfKG8w>. Randy explains photos from his early days of ham radio in Rochester, NY. The senior members of RARA will recognize some of the faces and the call signs.

Below is a link to Randy's channel along with some other active You Tube channels.

- K7AGE's Amateur Radio Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/k7age>
- Rooster & Peanut's GoatTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/goathiker>
- W2AEW Electronics, Test Equipment, Ham Radio, and Misc Videos: <http://www.youtube.com/user/w2aew>
- N7TFP: <http://www.youtube.com/user/n7tfp>
- Ham Radio Now: <http://www.youtube.com/user/HamRadioNow>
- Ham Nation: <http://www.youtube.com/HamNation>
- AmateurLogic.TV: <http://www.youtube.com/user/gthomas>

Thanks to Randy for the email and a little insight into the YouTube world of ham radio.



Randy Hall's video gives an overview of ham activity in Rochester in the 1960s and 70s.

Rochester Area Repeater List – Updated

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

The Rochester area repeater list has finally been updated. After two plus years, the list was starting to get stale. With the help of Dick Goslee, Jim Stefano, Mike Rink, Bob Shewell, and Dave Foster there have been a number of changes and some new additions to the list. New for the first time is the addition of three D-Star repeaters. The list can be downloaded from the RARA website in the Ham 101 area. The direct link to the PDF file is:

<http://www.rochesterham.org/Documents/Rochester%20Area%20Repeater%20Listing.pdf>

Now I need your help. It is not possible for me to reach every repeater and test them. If you know of a repeater that has changed call sign, is missing from the list, or is off the air please let me know. My email is on the last page of the list. Get out there and use those repeaters.

RaRa LOGO Items



Don't feel left out- get your RaRa logo items today!

[\(Click here to shop now!\)](#)

The End of an Era – Christiano Hardware Closes

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

Chances are some of you have a scanner I set up for you at Christiano Hardware in Leicester, NY. The electronics counter begun by Roger Christiano sold scanners, CB, and car stereos and later cell phones. Either crystal or programmable scanners were sold over the years. If it was a crystal it was almost certainly the Bearcat IIIH/U. The UHF channels will now be shut off for Monroe County, but the high band channels will still be going strong. But you were limited to 8 channels except for a few models that had an amazing 16 channels.

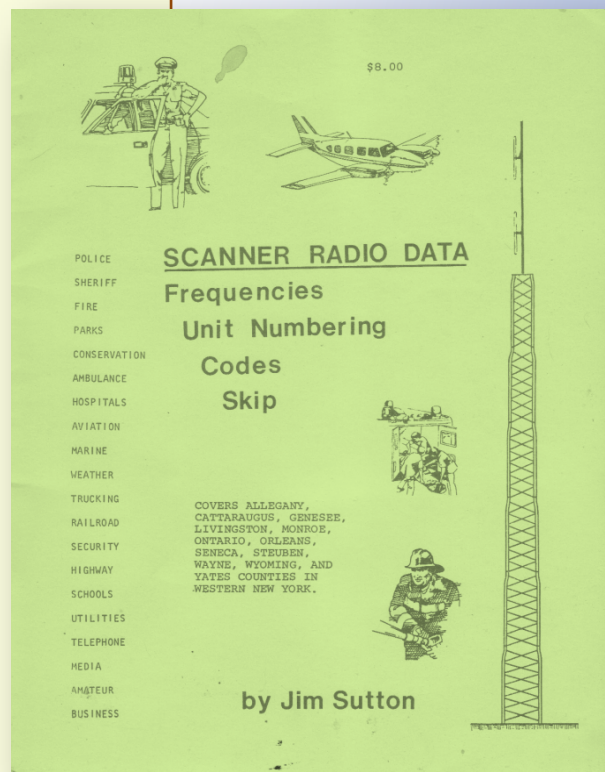
In later days I programmed your scanner via a keyboard. These later-generation scanners allowed more channels and you were no longer limited to using crystals. Early programmable scanners required a memory battery to retain the program till you got home and when the electric was out. Whether it was inserting crystals with needle nose pliers or typing numbers in on a keyboard I made many friends over the years.

To get the most out of your programmable scanner you needed a copy of my *Scanner Radio Data*. This directory contained frequencies, codes, and unit numbers for Rochester area public safety and businesses. (Ed. Note: Jim even included a historical overview of Rochester-area frequencies in his later guides. Anyone remember good old 159.03 MHz?)

Chances are you didn't head directly to your car when I was done with your scanner. We might have gone downstairs for a pound of nails or Bobbie may have mixed you a gallon of paint. Dickie probably showed off one of his classic cars. All part of a unique, full service hardware store in a rural community.

Box stores and the Internet have changed the times. Gone is the personal touch at the hardware store. I can still program most scanners and produce a computer printout at my Mount Morris location. Feel free to e-mail me for details at jim@otrym.org.

Until next time, 73 to thee.



RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian

20 Years Ago, March, 1993

The program for this meeting was given by a well-known local amateur and TV broadcast engineer, Tim Stoffel, NS9E. Tim gave attendees a video tour of WXXI's newest television transmitter and included information on "ELMO", WXXI's automated video management system. Tim concluded with very early information on the progress of something called HD, or high definition television standards. Jim Reinhold, Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness, wrote to inform readers of the upcoming 5th annual statewide Severe Weather Awareness Drill scheduled for March. Included will be SKYWARN and RACES, according to information from EC Ed Holdsworth, N2EH.

RaRa President Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, wrote to tell of his interesting face to face meetings with Piotr (Peter) Nitecki, visiting locally from our Sister City, Cracow, Poland. Peter is not only an official with the sister cities program, but he is also SP9BWJ and the president of a telecommunications company in Poland. George, AA2FO and Barbara, AA2CX, reported that their last testing session brought eleven new or upgraded amateurs into our ranks. Gerald English, KB2DVV, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Rochester Weather Service, wrote a full page report, telling of the SKYWARN Rochester area network. Gerald cited local amateurs who were heavily involved as: N2EH, WB2MDO, KB2CU, KB2CHP, N2DZS and the facilities of RaRa's club station K2JD. From the Want Ads you could buy a 7-foot high, 19-inch equipment rack from Nolan, N2EAW, for twenty bucks. Bob Boyack, K2OXT, advertised Flight and Ground instruction for those seeking a private flying license.

40 Years Ago, March, 1973

A last-minute program cancellation left program chair, Bob Lauzon WB2NSD, without a program description at time to go to press, but having known Bob, I'm sure it was a good one. Jim Collinworth, WB2EDT, wrote two articles for this issue. The first telling of plans being formulated for the 1973 Hike For Hope. On the planning committee were Gene W2FZJ, Randy WA2AGE and Dave WB2ZEA. Jim's second article chronicled the January simulated emergency test (S.E.T.) where many new communication outlets were tried including all three local MARS organizations as well as the use of RTTY. Jim recognized 62 local amateurs who were active in handling traffic.

Bob Phelps WB2DPT, penned a nice article detailing the just completed Valentine Dinner-Dance held at the Mill in Honeoye Falls. A special treat was the return of Eddie Dunn W2ECH, as Master of Ceremonies who had missed the last two events due to a serious illness. Ed Gable, Chairman of the Rochester Radio Repeater Assn., included a short article announcing the RRRA auction featuring Tom Ball WA2THS and Joe Hood K2YAH as auctioneers.

Ed Gable, W2MPM, reported on the first Winter Road Rally with communications by RaRa. The Triumph Touring Club's Snowblower, held in the area of Bath, NY, was an SCCA sanctioned event and good communications was critical to its success. Organizer Ed Gable W2MPM, thanks these locals; WA2AGE, WB2BWQ, WA2EJY, WB2EKR, WA2GHQ, K2LZG, WB2SNA, K2SQI, K2YAH and K2ZAA for their fine efforts. From the Want Ads you could buy a Heath DX-20 Novice rig from Mike Nelson WA2PCX. *CQ Magazine*, of Port Washington, NY, remained a long term advertiser.

Shortwave Update— A Different Kind of DX

By Jay Golden, K2JSG
jgolden577@rochester.rr.com

On those days when propagation just isn't cooperating, many national broadcasters are on the air with their multi-hundred kilowatt machines pumping signals our way and providing interesting listening. Some easily heard in and around the 40 meter band are:

- RTV Tunisia on 7345 kHz at 2100Z in Arabic with talks and local music
- Radio Stathmos Makedonias on 7450 kHz in Greek with talk and local music at 2100Z
- All India Radio on 7550 kHz at 2130Z in English with talk, reception reports, features
- China Radio International on 7395 kHz at 2130Z with YL announcer and oriental music in Asian language
- Radio Romania International on 7310 kHz at 2130Z with OM in English, features
- Radio PMR (Moldava) on 7290 kHz in English at 2145Z with local news
- Radio France International on 7205 kHz in French at 2145Z, talk, music

Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, March 28, 2013, at 7:00 PM.** Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

WEB: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

NBEMS: Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2013.

RDXA News

By Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ

The next meeting of RDXA is Tuesday March 19th at 7:30 PM at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1190 Scottsville Road, Rochester. Meetings are open to all—you don't need to be a member to attend.

For this month's meeting we will have the pleasure of having the ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR visiting the club. If you have any questions with regards to the League this would be an opportunity to get them answered. There will be a pre-meeting get together for food and an 807 at MicGinny's, 2246 East River Road starting around 6 PM. I would like to remind everyone to visit the new RDXA website at RDXA.com where you can learn more about what the club is up to. 73, and hope to work you on the bands!

RRRA News

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD
RRRA President

It's that time of year again. RRRA will hold its annual March auction on Friday, March 15 at 7:30pm. The location is the Pittsford Town Hall, in the basement, located at 11 South Main Street Pittsford, NY. That's where RRRA holds its monthly meetings on the 3rd Friday of the month, at the corner of Route 31 and 96. RRRA has changed its regular meeting time from 8pm to 7:30pm so the doors will be opening at 7pm for setup and socializing. Bring your items you wish to sell and check out the items for auction.

The unbeatable team of Ed Gable, K2MP and Dick Goslee, KG2I will be our auctioneers for the night. As with other club auctions, 10% of the auction price will go to RRRA in support of the club. To help keep RRRA alive we need your support for this event, and we hope you will consider joining our club. RRRA supports 16 local repeaters serving the Ham community. Hope to see you there!

Editor's Note:

Free press is available for your club! We welcome brief updates and meeting notices from all area ham clubs. Just send your input to editor@rochesterham.org. When preparing your article, please remember to keep it short, and assume that readers know nothing about your club. The article should be focused toward non-members, and not your own current members... that's what your newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks.

73, -Kevin



Drumlins 27th Annual Hamfest

The Annual Drumlins hamfest will be held on **Saturday, April 13th** at a brand NEW location: **The Palmyra VFW Post 6778, 4306 Route 31, Palmyra, NY**. This location is three miles east of Palmyra center, and 5 miles west of Newark. Doors open at 7 AM for vendors, and 8 AM for the public. Admission is \$5. There will be license testing, food, prizes, and a wide array of vendors. The Drumlins website carries complete information at www.drumlinsarc.org/hamfest.htm. Need more info? Just e-mail the Drumlins at Hamfest@drumlinsarc.org.

Interlock Rochester—Open House

Submitted by Walter Dutcher, N2ZVP

We will have a radio or two running digital modes in the Interlock Ham Shack, K2HAX. Electronics, Lock Picking, 3D Printing, Origami, DSP, SQUIRTRONICS, and Raspberry Pi, are just some of the cool things happening at Interlock's open house on March 9th!

K2ZWI - University of Rochester ARC

By Dean Faklis, NW2K

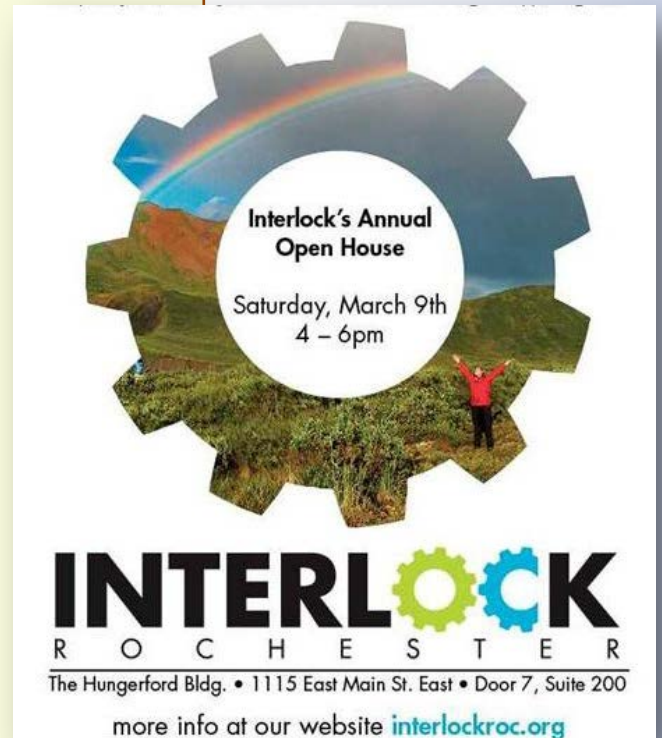
Thanks to the fine work of N5THV, K2ZWI, The University of Rochester Amateur Radio Club, is alive and ready to grow. A small group of members met on January 14 at UR to kick off a new future for the Club. A broad range of ideas was shared, all within the common theme centered on learning and achievement for all members of the UR community.

Our hobby offers great opportunity for students to get their hands dirty, so to speak, while taking part in their formal studies. Building a station from the ground up would provide numerous challenges in design, innovation, fabrication, computer hardware, software/control, mechanical engineering, and project management. Building K2ZWI forms a nice platform for students to learn to work together to create something that will endure. It is hoped that all aspects of the hobby will be represented within K2ZWI, embracing wireless and all its supporting technologies.

In addition to members in the Rochester area, there is a core group of K2ZWI alumni on board. One of the first tasks this group has tackled is to assemble historical documents, including some excellent photographs. We expect that more alumni will join and participate as the word gets out.

The next K2ZWI meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11 at 4 pm, at UR's Laboratory for Laser Energetics (on East River Road). The primary goal for this meeting is to meet and sign up UR members, both licensed amateurs and those interested in being a part of building a full-featured radio station from the ground up. Most importantly, we're focused on having a strong and dynamic student membership, where students take on leadership roles. And, during the meeting, we'll also discuss some preliminary plans for ARRL Field Day 2013 coming up in June.

All technologies will be represented at the new K2ZWI, and we'll need both hardware and software types. The challenges are many and we plan to set some big goals over time. The entire UR community is invited so please come and join us! For more information, please email k2zwi.rochester@gmail.com or my call at ARRL.net.



The Amateur's Code

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

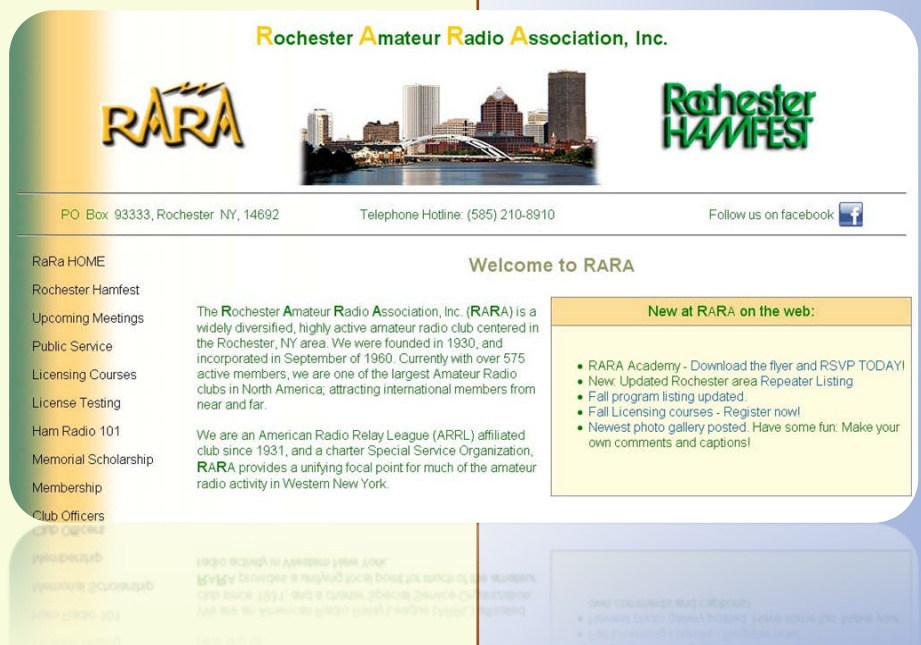
The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community

Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website (www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Track and redeem your Reward points
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
- ✓ Online membership directory
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, and mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



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License Testing Coordinator Ken Hall, W2KRH
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RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month
from September through May at 7pm. come join
us at:

Henrietta Fire Company No.1
3129 East Henrietta Rd.
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April Rag Deadline
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